



Center *for* Research Libraries  
GLOBAL RESOURCES NETWORK

The Center for Research Libraries scans to provide digital delivery of its holdings. In some cases problems with the quality of the original document or microfilm reproduction may result in a lower quality scan, but it will be legible. In some cases pages may be damaged or missing. Files include OCR (machine searchable text) when the quality of the scan and the language or format of the text allows.

If preferred, you may request a loan by contacting Center for Research Libraries through your Interlibrary Loan Office.

### **Rights and usage**

Materials digitized by the Center for Research Libraries are intended for the personal educational and research use of students, scholars, and other researchers of the CRL member community. Copyrighted images and texts may not be reproduced, displayed, distributed, broadcast, or downloaded for other purposes without the expressed, written permission of the copyright owner.

### **Center for Research Libraries**

Identifier: b1a72d44-dd10-46b3-80c3-426e62be93a9

Range: Scans 001 - 004

Downloaded on: 2022-05-19 16:05:53

# R E P O R T.

---

## WEST INDIA FREE LABOURERS.

---

THE COMMITTEE appointed to consider of the practicability and expediency of supplying our West India Colonies with free Labourers from The *East*; and to report their Opinion thereupon, to the House;—

HAVE proceeded to investigate the Subject submitted to their consideration; and having examined such Persons and Documents as appeared most likely to furnish them with the best information upon the different points connected with it, they are of Opinion, that the general result of their Enquiries may be comprised under the following heads:

1<sup>st</sup>—That there prevails amongst the Male population of China, a great disposition to emigrate; but that they almost universally emigrate with the intention of returning to their own country, and that a considerable number do actually return.

2<sup>dly</sup>—That the Chinese Emigrants have uniformly conducted themselves with the greatest propriety and order, and have been peculiarly instrumental in promoting the improvement of those countries to which they have emigrated.

3<sup>dly</sup>—That such emigration, however, is contrary to the laws of China; although its existence to a great extent seems to imply, that those laws are not strictly enforced.

Such being the general outline of the circumstances connected with the subject which have been brought before the Committee, they see no reason to suppose that the Chinese might not be inclined to extend their emigrations to the West Indies, either directly from China, or from other countries where they have already established themselves; and Your Committee are fully impressed with the important advantages which might, under proper arrangements, be expected to result to those Islands, from the introduction of a class of free people, so distinguished by their orderly and industrious habits.

Your Committee however cannot but feel that the execution of any project of this description would be attended with no inconsiderable difficulties: the most important of these would be the procuring Females to accompany the Male emigrants; a condition which Your Committee consider absolutely indispensable, on account of the nature as well as the limited amount of female population in the West Indies.

In the East, the Chinese have always found, either in the countries to which they have emigrated, or in countries bordering upon them, a female population, to which similar objections do not apply; but Your Committee have not sufficient means of judging how far it would be practicable to induce females of those countries to accompany the Chinese, in their more distant emigrations to the West Indies.

Another difficulty would arise, if the jealousy of the Chinese Government should be excited by any systematic attempt to promote the evasion of the laws of that country; which jealousy, if excited, might produce consequences very injurious to the interests of British commerce: nor could Your Committee recommend any measures calculated to encourage the evasion of the laws of a friendly country.

It is to be observed also, that as the introduction of a new class of inhabitants into our Colonies could hardly meet with success, if the Colonial Legislatures were indisposed to favour it; it would, in the opinion of Your Committee, be expedient that those Legislatures should be consulted, previous to the adoption of any measure for such purpose.

Your Committee do not represent these difficulties as insuperable; but they conceive it must be left to the executive Government to ascertain how far they can be removed or overcome. Whilst therefore Your Committee would suggest, that it would be very desirable that the executive Government should bear in mind the advantages which might follow in the West Indies, from the introduction of a new class of free people, they do not consider themselves as authorized, in the present state of the question, to recommend any specific plan to the consideration of the Legislature.

12 June 1811.

---



## REPORT

From the Committee appointed to consider of the practicability and expediency of supplying our *West India* Colonies with free LABORERS from *The East*; and to report their Opinion thereupon, to the House.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed,*  
*12 June 1811.*